

**INDIA'S FARMERS
LAWS AND
PROTESTS**

Farmer's laws and protests have attracted international attention.

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

Brief timeline of the various events in the history of African diaspora.

CELEBRATING

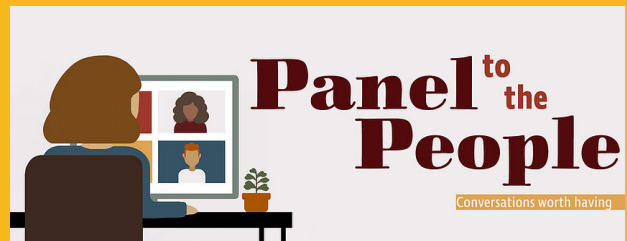
**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

FEBRUARY

PULSE

IN THIS ISSUE

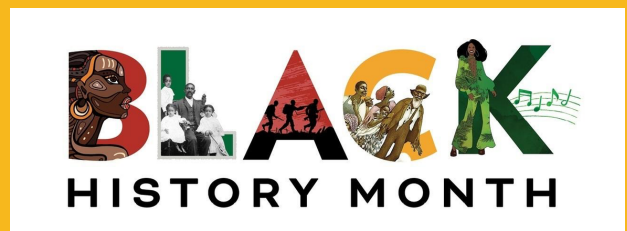
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PULSE-



ONE SMALL PERSON VS. HUNDREDS OF
CRUCIAL PUBLIC ISSUES. IN A WORLD WHERE
CHANGE NEVER STOPS, IT IS CRITICAL THAT
ONE STAYS EXPOSED TO RISING GLOBAL AND
LOCAL ISSUES ON A DAILY BASIS. HOWEVER
HOW CAN WE EXPECT OURSELVES TO DO THIS
ALONE?

THE PEOPLE'S PULSE WORKS TOWARDS
PROVIDING THE PUBLIC WITH A YOUTH
PERSPECTIVE ON CURRENT EVENTS TAKING
PLACE GLOBALLY. OUR MONTHLY ISSUES
FOCUSES ON ENCOURAGING YOUTH ACTIVISM
AND IS A PLATFORM FOR EVERYONE TO HAVE
THEIR STORIES HEARD. WE PLAN TO ADDRESS
VARIOUS CONTEMPORARY ISSUES &
QUESTIONS TO FACILITATE GROWTH AND
OFFER RESOURCES FOR EVERYONE TO BE
ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE. LIKE THE BLOOD
RUNNING THROUGH OUR VEINS, OUR
NEWSPAPER WILL BE YOUR
LIFELINE FOR CREDIBLE INFORMATION.
THIS IS THE PEOPLE PULSE; STAY
TUNED FOR MORE!

THE HISTORY OF INDIA'S REFORMS

NIDHI GEORGE AND ABHINAV MUKKAMALA

Recently, the Farmer Protests in India have attracted international attention from media outlets and interested spectators across the world. The Indian farmers' protest is an ongoing protest from September 2020, against three farm acts which were passed by the Indian Parliament. How do they differ from India's previous agricultural structure, and why is there such fierce opposition against them? Are there greater powers at play in this show of resistance?

In British-ruled India, a Zamindari System existed, where intermediaries known as Zamindars (land owners) controlled regions of land worked by farmers. When it was abolished, large chunks of land were fragmented and distributed among farmers. The tiller became the owner of the land, increasing national agricultural output and preventing exploitation of farmers at the hands of landlords. However, because the amount of land tillers owned was so small, farmers produced less produce individually, reducing their bargaining power. Modi's government passed the three farming laws in September to dramatically change the decades-old system of selling agricultural goods in India in an effort to resolve India's long-standing agricultural crisis. The three new laws each deregulate a different aspect of the agricultural system: the sale, pricing and storage of goods.

Modi's Three Farming Laws

1

Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act

Broadens the scope in which farmers' produce can be sold in, from select areas to any place of production, suggesting agricultural businesses, supermarket chains and e-commerce. Removing APMCs, and allowing trade between licence-holder traders,

2

Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act

Establishes a framework for contract farming between farmers and buyers regarding the commerce of any farm produce. The act arranges a few provisions: minimum/maximum period of farming, pricing of farming produce, and a three-level settlement of dispute.

3

Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act

A previous act of Indian Parliament which was enacted in 1955 to ensure the delivery of certain commodities deemed as essential. The act frees items such as foodgrains, pulses, edible oils and onion for trade except in extraordinary situations like war or famine.

GOVERNMENT JUSTIFICATION

INTENT

Previously, farmers in India would sell their crops at "mandis," rural market places, run by the agricultural produce market committee (APMC). The APMC would regulate prices and set a Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops, to ensure a profit for the farmers. However, in June 2020, the Indian Parliament passed three farm acts which were intended to benefit the agricultural sector of the country, however resulted in disagreements and multiple protests.



The Indian government claimed the Minimum Support Price system has only benefited a few farmers. The Shanta Kumar committee set up by the government in 2015 found only 6 percent of farmers benefit from the MSP (Dutta). Therefore, the new laws were established in efforts to open up new opportunities for the majority of farmers, to allow them to earn more from their farm produce. With food markets growing exponentially in India, it is argued that private corporations and an open market would make agriculture profitable for the farmers as seen in other developed countries such as the United States (Dutta).

Government support for farmers, including the MSP for certain crops, helped India move past the hunger crisis of the 1960s. However, with India attempting to advance its economy, Prime Minister Modi wants the country's economy to nearly double by 2024 and believes the government should no longer play such a large role in agricultural commerce. (Mashal).

BENEFITS AS PER THE GOVERNMENT

1

Farmers will have the freedom to sell their produce outside the APMC markets and taxes on such trade will not be present, which will give a higher profit to the farmers.

2

Farmers can sell their produce within the state and anywhere else in the country with no restriction on this type of trade. This was intended to benefit the farmers, considering they will be able to sell their produce to the merchant offering the highest price.

3

In case of any dispute arising in such business, the matter will be settled within 30 days by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate.

4

There are also provisions of heavy penalty for violation of rules and regulations. (Ians).

P

WHY ARE THE
FARMERS
PROTESTING?

"Anti-Farmer" Laws

With no sign of any agreement between the government and the protesting farmers, farmers are sticking to their first and major point - that the three "anti-farmer" laws passed in September be repealed. However, the government says these laws are in the interest of farmers to make them richer.

The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020; and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 are the main issue behind farmers' protest.

Reason for Protest

So what is the reason for the protests, and why are they centered in Punjab and Haryana?

The government argues that the deregulations increase efficiency, allow farmers greater freedom and let farmers negotiate better prices for their crops. But farmers say these reforms will devastate their earnings. Many worry that by allowing farmers to bypass the state-sanctioned marketplaces and sell directly to private buyers without paying the taxes or fees required by state-run markets, the laws will gradually make the mandi system obsolete. Protesting farmers' biggest fear is that this dismantling of the mandis will end the MSPs—a safety net that assures farmers that they will be paid a certain price without regard to market conditions. Protesters are skeptical and have demanded that the government make its promise in writing.

Drawbacks (as per the farmers)

1

Mandis operated under the APMC, law of the states will be abolished. The farmers will be forced to sell the crop to corporate companies at one-and-a-half price.

2

Due to the abolition of the mandi system, there will be no purchase of crops on MSP (managed service provider).

3

Farmers' products have been going from one state to another in the past and the provisions of the new law are only for the benefit of the corporate and not for the benefit of the farmers.

4

Farmers will be exposed to the risk of fraud due to the entry of people without license or registration.

5

In case of any dispute in the business with the corporate buyer, there will be a danger of farmers' interests being ignored.



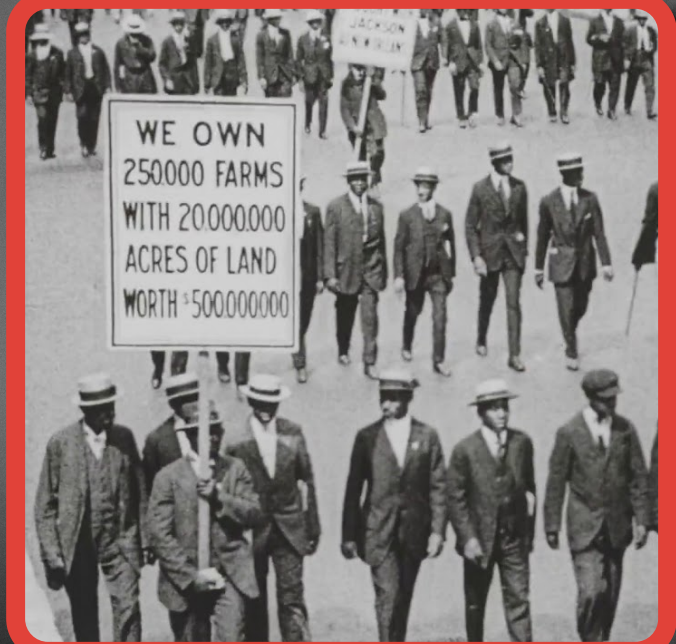
Injustice Protests Over The Years

A timeline of protests fighting against black oppression in America

PRISHA PANDITA, LAVIN MA, SAREEYA ALI

July 28, 1917: The Silent Protest

The Silent Protest took place in New York on July 28, 1917 when almost 10,000 black men, women, and children wordlessly paraded down New York's Fifth Avenue. Clutching picket signs, they peacefully declared their purpose and demanded justice. This event resulted in **the beginning of multiple silent protests** across the span of the next decade. Although silent, this protest was a **massive turning point** in expressing the unjust and unfair treatment against colored people. It helped the African American community gain sympathy from citizens and helped others realize the acts of cruelty against them.



July 23, 1967: The Detroit Riot

After a series of unlawful repeated actions by governors and city men, people of color in Detroit, during the “Long Summer” of 1967, decided they will **not uphold and withstand the injustice being ‘bestowed’ upon them**. There were various violent confrontations between “residents of predominantly African-American neighborhoods of Detroit and the city’s police department” (Emeka). This riot was one of the most principal for the Black Power movement



March 21, 2012: Million Hoodie

Walking through the streets of New York City, millions of people came

together to protest “the absurdity of Trayvon [Martin’s] murder” (Peralta). Trayvon Martin was an unarmed black teenager that was **shot unlawfully to his death**.

Known for its name, many of those protesting wore a hooded sweatshirt to the march, “which was billed as a demonstration to put an end to racial profiling” (Staff). As the crowd chanted *“Justice for Trayvon!”*

Trayvon's mother, Sybrina Fulton, tells the demonstrators that “[t]his is not about a black-and-white thing.

This is about a right-and-wrong thing.” After the passing of Trayvon Martin, one of the most renowned movements of all time was born; **#BlackLivesMatter**.



May 26, 2020: The George Floyd Protest



One day after the passing of George Floyd, protests arose in Minneapolis where Floyd was killed. Protesters and police had violent confrontations as crowds of protesters swarmed the Minneapolis Police Department's third precinct offices, carrying various signs with different messages ranging from “Lock them up” to “I can’t breathe.” There was vandalism done by protestors: smashing windows, spraying graffiti. Eventually police outfitted in riot gear used tear gas to disperse the protestors. The four police officers involved with Floyd’s death were fired due to the widespread national public outrage.

July 26 – August 1, 2020: Sacramento's Protests



There have also been protests in Sacramento. On July 26, 2020, a protest with more than 400 people took place in Loomis, California. Different members of Folsom for Justice led chants. As the protestors traveled they came head to head with the opposing group; All Lives Matter protesters. Different heated arguments took place. Protestors blocked traffic as they traveled through intersections and highways before finally ending at a Raley’s parking lot. Protestors also showed support in Sacramento. The protestors converged at Cesar E. Chavez Plaza before marching to a police substation on August 1, 2020 while repeating names of black people who have been killed by police officers in the city.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Official Publication of The People's Pulse

Dear Readers,

After 2020 brought about a harsh reality for everyone, many of our youth became interested in engaging with various issues taking place all over the world. It was this very peak of interest that ultimately resulted in The People's Pulse; we are pleased to introduce this newspaper as our newest means of providing a platform for those who need their stories to be shared. We are excited to work alongside Harvard University's Panel to the People, and will continue to work towards facilitating growth amongst one another.

Contact Us

Get in touch with The People's Pulse to learn more about how you can get involved.



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Join Us

If you're interested in joining us please fill out this form.

<https://forms.gle/uV5xxFLRprD7sfUy5>

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